

2019 Scheele Award Winner Widely Celebrated

On November 28, 2019, many will be particularly pleased with the nomination committee's selection of Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier for the Scheele award granted by the Swedish Pharmaceutical Society (*Apotekarsocieteten*). Charpentier will receive the award during a symposium on CRISPR-Cas and gene therapy.

“Emmanuelle Charpentier is a worthy Scheele award recipient,” says Professor Birgitta Henriques Normark, who chairs two of the symposium's sessions. Henriques Normark contends that this year's symposium will offer fascinating insights into potential uses for the CRISPR-Cas9 system.

Sweden's Pharmaceutical Society grants the Scheele award every two years. Its purpose is to highlight current drug research and, through the symposium organized in connection with the award ceremony, build area-related networks inside and outside Sweden.

“Not least, I look forward to learning more about how gene editing can be used for drug development and in varying treatment models,” says Henriques Normark. “This facilitates extremely interesting applications.” Normark is a chief physician and professor in the Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology at Karolinska Institutet.

Emmanuelle Charpentier isn't a new acquaintance of Birgitta Henriques Normark. They worked together around the turn of the millennium on a research project that involved pneumococci—a type of bacteria that Henriques Normark's research still focuses on today. Eventually, Charpentier left pneumococci to instead focus on group A streptococci.

“In retrospect, we can conclude that it was a stroke of luck, because she might not otherwise have made her groundbreaking discoveries about CRISPR-Cas9, which are not present in pneumococci.”

The symposium program is broad and ranges from basic research to innovative applications. Besides this year's award winner, some of the world's foremost experts in the field are giving lectures.

“Everything is in place for a highly interesting symposium,” says Birgitta Henriques Normark, who was elected to the Royal Academy of Sciences in 2018. “It's gratifying that the Society worked so hard to get world-leading researchers to travel to Stockholm for this event.”

About the Scheele award

The Swedish Pharmaceutical Society (*Apotekarsocieteten*) grants the [Scheele award](#) every other year to (i) recognize current pharmaceutical research and (ii) build networks between Sweden and stakeholders associated with that research area (via the symposium that follows the award ceremony). Find out more on the [Swedish Pharmaceutical Society's web site](#). Click [here](#) for preliminary symposium details.

[Young Scientist Day](#) is scheduled after the symposium to give young researchers opportunities to present their scientific achievements and discuss current issues with the award winner.

Questions? Contact [Lisa Bandholtz](#), scientific secretary at the Pharmaceutical Society: +46 73 822 39 99